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## REVIEW

*California Native Plants for the Garden*. By CAROL BORNSTEIN, DAVID FROSS AND BART O'BRIEN. 2005. Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, CA. 2<sup>nd</sup> Printing February 2006. 271 pp. ISBN 0-9628505-8-6, \$27.95, paperback

*California Native Plants for the Garden* is a truly valuable contribution to the somewhat limited, although increasingly available references on the topic of cultivating California native plants. The science of horticulture is critical to the success of landscape projects, including not only residential landscape design, but wildlands restoration and management. *California Native Plants for the Garden* capably and thoroughly addresses the many aspects of growing native plants well.

This book was written by three renowned California horticulturists: Carol Bornstein (Horticulture Director at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden) Dave Fross, (Landscape Architect, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Instructor, and Native Sons Wholesale Nursery Owner) and Bart O'Brien (Senior Staff Research Associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, heralding previously from Yerba Buena Nursery in Palo Alto, CA). In combination, they offer considerable expertise on the subject, although their background experience leads to a slight partiality towards coastal rather than interior regions of the state.

Produced by California's own, Cachuma Press, *California Native Plants for the Garden* is in a similar format to two of its other beautiful publications: *Oaks of California* and *Conifers of California*. Like its predecessors, the book is visually gripping with over 450 glossy color photographs, informative, thorough and well organized. While clearly its greatest appeal is for gardeners, landscape designers and native plant aficionados, it also benefits botanists and ecologists in their efforts to revegetate or restore land by providing horticultural essentials such as plant establishment, irrigation, care and maintenance. In the "Plant Profiles" section, it offers a depth of information demystifying the many genera as well as cultivated varieties available commercially today. Derivation, description, as well as cultural requirements are given for hundreds of plants. Each genus is illustrated with a colorful photograph—often depicted in an instructive landscape context.

Additionally, concerns associated with wildland-urban interfaces, such as exotic plant invasions, genetic contamination of endangered native plants, fire-safe landscaping, sustainability, drought, and erosion—are fundamentally, yet definitively addressed.

—MELANIE BAER-KEELEY, Restoration Horticulturist, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, 47050 Generals Hwy, Three Rivers, CA 93271; [Melanie\\_Baer-Keeley@nps.gov](mailto:Melanie_Baer-Keeley@nps.gov).